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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/825,619	04/15/2004	Renato Miranda	06290/0200906-US0	7866

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EXAMINER

WALCZAK, DAVID J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3751

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/825,619	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MIRANDA, RENATO	
	<b>Examiner</b> David J. Walczak	<b>Art Unit</b> 3751	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miranda in view of Oder, III et al. (hereinafter Oder). In regard to claim 1, the Miranda reference discloses a container for storing and applying liquid deodorant comprised of a tubular body 10, a nozzle 11 in the form of an annular bearing, a sphere 20 and a cap 30 having an end wall 31 which defines a seating surface. Although the cap does not include a concave cradle in which the ball rests, attention is directed to the Oder reference, which discloses another ball type applicator wherein the cap 20 includes such a cradle on the inner surface thereof in order to enable the ball to be forced downwardly and thereby enable the container to be vented. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include such a cradle on the inner surface of the cap in the Miranda reference in order to enable the ball to be urged toward the container and thereby vent the container.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaich et al. (hereinafter Schaich) in view of Miranda. Schaich discloses a container comprised of a tubular body 10, a nozzle 12e in the form of a spherical annular bearing, a sphere 11 and a tubular cap having an end wall 13b which defines a concave cradle

therein in which the ball rests (see Figure 4) when the cap is fitted to the body.

Although the Schaich reference does not disclose that the cap (which has a flat upper surface) can act as a seating surface, attention is directed to the Miranda reference, which discloses another ball-type application wherein the cap 30 has a flat upper surface in order to enable the cap to act as a seating surface in order to enable the device to be stored in an inverted fashion. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the cap and body 10 of the Schaich device can be designed such that the cap can act as a seating surface in order to enable the device to be stored in an inverted fashion. It is further noted that the statements of intended use, i.e. "for storing and applying a liquid deodorant" do not lend any patentable structure to the claims. Further, the Schaich device is capable of dispensing a liquid deodorant. In regard to claim 2, the cradle is defined by a corresponding deformation of the end wall (end wall 13b is deformed to form the cradle). In regard to claim 3, the peripheral annular portion of the cap in the device discussed supra defines a seating surface.


### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Jass et al. and Williams references are cited for disclosing other ball applicators wherein the caps have cradles therein.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Walczak whose telephone number is 703-308-0608. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, 6:30- 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg L. Huson can be reached on 703-308-2580. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David J. Walczak  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3751

DJW  
1/21/05